

Message

From: Walter Lamb [landtrust@ballona.org]
Sent: 4/23/2019 11:35:31 PM
To: Ballona Wetlands [landtrust@ballona.org]
Subject: Video of Natural Resources Committee hearing on AB 1511 (7 minutes)

Dear GB members,

The entire committee hearing on AB 1511 in Sacramento yesterday lasted a little over 7 minutes with no discussion by committee members. The video of just the AB 1511 portion can be viewed [here](#) or by scrolling to the 2:29:30 mark of the full committee hearing at the link below.

<https://www.assembly.ca.gov/media/assembly-natural-resources-committee-20190422/video>

Your Executive Director spoke in support of the bill by making assertions that were never raised for public discussion at any SMBRC meeting or articulated in any public document. We are in the process of obtaining public records to learn when the Bay Foundation and others first began planning for this change so that we can learn how many public SMBRC meetings took place at which the Executive Director and others kept this plan under the radar.

There will be more committee hearings, and they will all be as uneventful as this one. On this type of bill, substantial deference is given to the bill's author, and it is assumed that the appropriate local discussion has already occurred and that important details have already been ironed out by local leaders. The Land Trust will be compiling documents related to the fiscal impact of this bill (staffing levels, office space, legal counsel and other legal costs) for the Appropriations Committee, but the outcome of this bill is not in question. It will become law.

The public deserved a decision-making process that objectively evaluated a range of administrative hosting options for this agency, not just the option preferred by the most politically connected among you. The silver lining of this bill is that it crystallizes points we have been making for years about the Foundation's unchallenged influence over this public agency and the strong aversion to fair and fact-based discussions on issues of public importance. The bill will pass, but I believe its ultimate consequences will be very different than hoped for by those who orchestrated it.

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